

# County Comprehensive Plan

## **I. Overview of county**

- a. Agricultural statistics, trends, & projections
  - i. Traditional agricultural production
  - ii. Non-traditional agricultural production
  - iii. New & emerging agricultural production
  - iv. Tobacco dependency
- b. Demographic data
  - i. Social data
  - ii. Economic data
- c. Inventory of resources

## **II. Review of the Process**

- a. How was the comprehensive plan developed
- b. Who had input into the plan

## **III. Assessments**

- a. Strengths
- b. Weaknesses
- c. Opportunities
- d. Threats

## **IV. County Council Objectives**

- a. Mission/Vision Statement
- b. Short term priorities
- c. Long term goals
- d. Tactics for leveraging funds
  - i. Regional partnerships
  - ii. State Ag Development Board resources
  - iii. Other local/state/federal resources

## **V. Evaluation & Review**

- a. How will proposals be evaluated
- b. How will success and failure be measured
- c. How will the county comprehensive plan be revised

## **PROCESS**

The first step in the process has already been completed by counties. County Agricultural Development Councils have been organized in every county before August 1, 2000. Council membership consist of individuals recommended by the Farm Service Agency county committee, soil conservation districts, county extension councils, and young farmers selected by the council membership.

The County Council Action Guide, Volume 1 was approved by the State Agricultural Development Board in August. This guide offers suggestions to county agricultural development councils on beginning a process fulfill the requirements of House Bill 611. There will be additional information and resources to assist counties made available from future state board meetings.

## **PLANS**

County Agricultural Development Councils are required by law to "devise a plan for the county that would identify programs best suited for the agricultural development of the county". Councils are responsible for developing local strategies for enhancing agricultural opportunities and assisting local farmers. Each county council will provide a copy of its plan to the state Agricultural Development Board. An outline for county plans is provided only as a suggestion for councils to follow.

### **I. Overview of county**

A council may review available statistical data on farming in that county. Most of that information can be collected from the agricultural census and from annual statistical reports from the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service. Council may go beyond that data and seek out other information that may be helpful in completing the initial county plan.

### **II. Review of the process**

County councils can include a review of how data was collected. Information gained from the community or group forums could be

included in the county plan with the councils intentions of how it will influence the objective of the county council.

### **III. Assessments**

Following the collection of information and input councils may want to assess strengths that exist in the county. They can identify some weaknesses that should be addresses if the plan is successful. A well defined list of opportunities will help the council determine a set of priorities for where funds will be invested. Including those threats that face the future of farming in the county could also help in setting priorities.

### **IV. County Council Objectives**

This is where a county could include a mission statement or a statement of vision for the council and the community. It could be beneficial to identify some short term priorities for investing county funds to immediately address some of the needs of farmers in the county. It may also establish some long term goals for maintaining or increasing the importance of agriculture in the county with specific means to reach

those goals. Counties could also consider regional projects and how they could leverage resources from other local, state, and federal agencies.

### **V. Evaluation & Review**

This could include information on how councils will handle request for county funds. It could include criteria for evaluating success and a process for revision in the county plans.

### **PROPOSALS**

There will be a process and forms approved for county councils to adopt.

The eligibility for funds from the counties accounts requires that:

1. Tobacco farmers be given a priority.
2. Applicants have sufficient equity to assure a reasonable chance for success.
3. Small farmers have an equal access to funds as large farmers.
4. Consideration given to what percentage of the county's allocation the applicant is requesting

The "County Comprehensive Plan" was approved by the Phase I Agricultural Development Board in September 2000.